

Kristensen and Hall would like to put amendments to LB 646 and that's the only item that I have. (See AM1963 on pages 1984-85 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CROSBY: We will begin this afternoon with Item 8, the General File, LB 389. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, 389, a bill originally introduced by the Speaker at the request of the Governor. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 12 of this year, at that time referred to the Appropriations Committee for public hearing. Bill was advanced to General File. I do have Appropriations Committee amendments pending, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. Senator Wehrbein, on the committee amendments. (Standing Committee AM1755 referred to on page 1883 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker, this is a salary bill. I'm going to say briefly 389 is a salary bill that we'll discuss first; 390, which is next, is deficit appropriations; 391 is the capital construction; 392 is the mainline budget, so I wanted to warn...explain exactly what we're about this afternoon. This amendment has to do with the state salaries and I'm going to read, if you'd like to follow on this issue of salaries, it's on page 26 of the giant, giant blue book. We'll call that the...or the mini-blue book I guess, in deference to the Nebraska State Blue Book. Page 26, the state employees' salary contracts gives an explanation of what this amendment is all about. You can see in there the settlements for the NAPE master contract, the settlement for SLEBC, the law enforcement settlements, the NAPE settlements, state colleges settlement and the university faculty, UNO, UNK settlements, the different figures, mostly 4 percent the first year and mostly 3.5 to 4 percent the second. Page 26, middle of the page, state employees' salary contracts, that's what this amendment is about. And as you can read on down, although the salary contracts provide the pay increase for each individual employee within the units, a second issue is the amount of additional funds provided to agencies to pay these increases. In general, the committee recommendation provides funding for a 3 percent per year increase with full funding, or of contract amounts in selected areas. When not fully funded, agencies will be required to absorb the unfunded salary costs within their budgets. In reality, this act amounts to an across-the-board